



# **John Reich Journal**

Volume 12 / Issue 3

December 1999

# JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues ..... \$15.00

Life Membership ..... \$375.00

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The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Finest confirmed example of the 1830 V14 Capped Bust  
Half Dime. Photo courtesy of an East Coast collector.

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# John Reich Journal

Official publication of the

John Reich Collectors Society

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## Editors' Comments

This is the final issue of the JR Journal for volume 12, and (possibly, depending on how you look at it) the millennium. We hope all of you have enjoyed the articles we have brought to you this year. The officers would like to thank all the authors for their interesting submissions. This is the end of our year which means two things. First, your membership dues are requested for your continued participation in the society. You can renew by sending \$15 to: JRCS PO Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030. If you do not want to be bothered with these yearly reminders you can become a life member for \$375. Secondly, the time has come to vote for your favorite articles from the last year. Please choose up to 3 articles from any issue(s) of volume 12. You do not need to choose 1 from each issue, but 3 total for the entire year. The article garnering the most votes will be awarded the *Jules Reiver Literary Award* for 1999. Ballots will be accepted through March 2000. Send your votes today!

We are always interested in having members submit something for publication. Beginners can submit questions for the expert members to answer. We will keep your identity a secret if you wish. You could also write a review of the latest show you attended, or about a special experience you had in the hobby. More advanced research papers are needed to keep **The John Reich Journal** one of the best specialty publications in numismatics.

This years ANA will be located in Philadelphia. There will be many opportunities for the membership to meet and exchange information. Our annual meeting at the show is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9th at 8:30 AM in room 202A of the convention center. Plan on attending to meet other collectors with similar interests. We are also planning on having an educational presentation at the meeting. More details will follow in a future issue of the journal. I'm sure many of our coins will be looking forward to a reunion with their birthplace, a homecoming of sorts! If you have never been to a major coin convention make this one your first, it will not be your last.

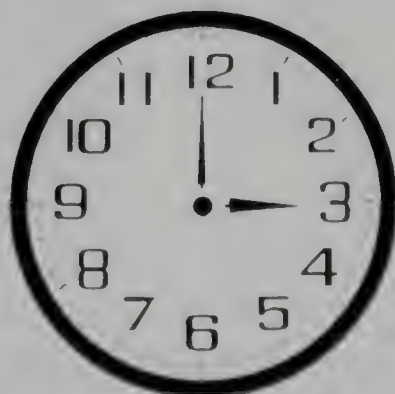
The Capped Bust Half Dollar census is included in this issue. There are many interesting tidbits of information to be gleamed from the JRCS censuses. The memberships' participation in these programs is highly encouraged. Our sharing of information is one of the most important ways to advance our collective knowledge of the Bust Series of coins. Where would we be if the pioneers merely researched for their own ends? There would be no books to guide our collecting. We would all have to literally "reinvent the wheel" to fuel our collecting interests by variety.

The next census scheduled for publication will be for Bust Dollars. All you "Daddy Dollar" collectors put pen to paper (laserjet to paper?) and send us your inventory for publication. Please include your duplicates for the aggregate totals. The information is requested in the following form: date, variety, numerical grade. Your identify will be kept confidential with the use of your membership number.

Remember to Vote for your favorite articles from Volume 12 of the Journal and send us your renewal of \$15 for the next year. Hopefully 2000 will bring success for each of you. We look forward to sharing the experiences of this year with the membership.

A limited number of half dime books are still available from the society. They are \$75 postpaid. Make checks payable to JRCS and send your orders to: Russ Logan, P.O. Box 39541, Solon, Ohio 44139. Do not miss this opportunity to acquire quite possibly the best variety manual ever written. You can read more about the manuscript in Dr. Hornings review which appears elsewhere in this issue.

# **TIME TO RENEW**



# **YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Send \$15 to: JRCS, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, Ohio 45030.

—Bradley S. Karoleff—

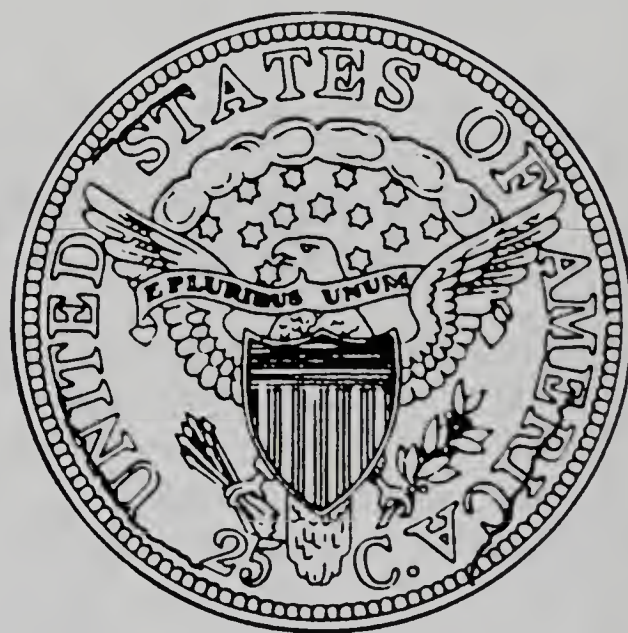


# Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

**JRCS**

A very interesting coin was submitted to NGC for attribution and grading, and I believe it may be worth sharing in **The John Reich Journal**. It is a nice AU specimen of the 1807 quarter dollar, B-1, showing extensive obverse die cracks not described in the Breen update to Browning. There is no sign of the die polishing that produced B-1A. This coin was a bit too dark to photograph well, so I've sketched the cracks instead.

David W. Lange  
Research Director  
Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America



Quarters – Heraldic Eagle 1804-1807, 1807 B-1

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# 1799 “Reverse of 1798” Silver Dollar

**W. David Perkins, NLG**

The 1799 “Reverse of 1798” silver dollar is an under appreciated rarity in the early dollar series. It is desirable as the only silver dollar die marriage of 1799 mated to the “Line Star Pattern Reverse” die as used in 1798. All other silver dollars 1799-1803 come with the “Arc Star Pattern Reverse” die. Furthermore, it has what Q. David Bowers called the “Blundered Stars Reverse” in his book *Silver Dollars of the United States*. This term came about due to the way in which the top two stars overlap the clouds. Bowers speculated that “perhaps, the engraver had too much rum (or “ayle,” per National Archives records) while cutting this die!” Bolender assigned the number B-15 to this die marriage of 1799, which is equivalent to Bowers-Borckardt number BB-152.

There are 33 die marriages known for 1798 silver dollars. Two of the 1798 die varieties use the “Small Eagle Reverse.” The “Arc Star Pattern Reverse” was probably the first reverse die used in striking Heraldic Eagle silver dollars in 1798. Nineteen 1798 die marriages use this reverse, while 12 employ the “Line Star Pattern Reverse.”

The reverse die used for striking the 1799 B-15 was first used in striking the 1798 B-25 (BB-123) die marriage. The obverse die of B-25 was only used in striking this one die marriage. The B-25 reverse die starts out with no sign of a crack from the stem end. A tiny crack develops from the right side of the stem to border. Next, a blob forms on the stem end. And, in the late state, the crack from stem to border is heavier. Along the way the obverse die develops extensive die breaks and eventually either shattered or was terminated.

The reverse die was then paired with a new obverse die. A new die marriage was created, B-24 (BB-124). The die has been now been lapped - some arrows are now faint, and part of the C in AMERICA is missing. On most of the specimens of B-24 the reverse stars above and to the right of the eagle’s head are weak [*see photo*] due to die damage and the die bulging on the corresponding part of the obverse. The B-24 obverse die eventually shatters and the reverse die is set aside. This obverse die was not used again in striking any other (known) silver dollar die marriages dated 1798.





**"Arc Star Pattern Reverse."** This reverse star pattern was used with 19 die marriages for 1798. The "Line Star Pattern Reverse" die was used for 12 die marriages of 1798. All silver dollars 1799-1803, with the exception of the 1799 B-15 "Reverse of 1798" die marriage, have the stars in the arc pattern.



**"Line Star Pattern", Reverse of 1798 B-25:** Top two stars overlap the clouds. First use of the reverse die, later used to strike 1799 B-15 die marriage. Tiny die crack from the right side of the stem to the border. "Blob" shows at tip of stem. Specimen is the plate Coin in the Bowers silver dollar book. Photo courtesy of ANA.



**Reverse of 1798 B-24.** Second use of the reverse die. The reverse die has now been lapped - note some arrows are faint relative to the first use of the die on 1798 B-25, and part of the leaf by C in AMERICA is missing or weak. Break stem to rim heavier and forms a cud on the dentils. A small die crack now extends from "blob" at end of stem to border. Stars above eagle's and to right of eagle's head are weak. Photo courtesy of ANA.



**1799 B-15 "Reverse of 1798."** Third use of this reverse die, and the only 1799 reverse with the "Line Star Pattern" as used in 1798. Break "blob" to rim appears slightly heavier. Reverse photo is the Bolender plate coin.



Sometime, probably early in the minting of the dollars dated 1799, the reverse die of 1798 B-25 and B-24 is mated with a new 1799 dated obverse die. This obverse die had been previously used to strike the rare 1799 B-13 die marriage. The berries on the reverse stem are now smaller, due to the die having been lapped. A die crack now extends from the end of the stem to the border. On most examples of 1799 B-15 (some of) the reverse stars are weakly struck, but not as weak as on 1798 B-24. This difference is most likely due to the die damage on the lower right obverse quadrant of the 1798 B-24. After the striking of the 1799 B-15 die marriage, the obverse die, despite having extensive die cracks, was married to the "15 Star Reverse" die, creating the 1799 B-4 die variety.

It is a mystery to me why the 1799 "Reverse of 1798" silver dollar has not received more attention over the years. It was clearly identified as such by M. H. Bolender in his book *"THE UNITED STATES EARLY SILVER DOLLARS FROM 1794 TO 1803,"* first published in 1950. It is an important die variety of 1799, and is easily attributed. A brief scan of Redbooks from the 1950s to the present fails to produce any listing under "Reverse of 1798. [*The 1799 B-15 is technically included in the Redbook as 1799 "Irregular Date."*] For some reason the *Redbook* and other listings / price lists have paid more attention to less significant variations for 1799 silver dollars, such as "Perfect Date," "Irregular Date," "Normal Date" and berry size over the years than a major difference such as the use of a leftover 1798 reverse (with completely different reverse star pattern)! [*And we should note these minor variations are very hard to differentiate when attributing.*] For Half Cents the *Redbook* lists the "1802, 2 over 0, rev. of 1800" half cent. Large Cents include separate listings for "Reverse(s) of 1794, 1795, 1796 and 1797" as well as "with stems and stemless varieties." And for dimes the *Redbook* even includes an 1859 pattern (not regular issue) "transitional" dime! Perhaps it's time to include the 1799 "Reverse of 1798" in the *Redbook*, in auction cataloging and other listings such as *Coin World Trends*.

Regardless, the 1799 "Reverse of 1798" is an important variety for the both the "Date/Major Type" collectors and die variety specialists to consider. And although this variety is rare, it is safe to say (today) that there are "more 1799 B-15s than collectors desiring one," thus a specimen can be picked up with little or no premium for rarity. [*The 1799 B-15 does become tough to acquire choice, and in higher grades.*]



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# DOLLAR NOTES

**Robert Stark**

## **“Small Letters”**

The “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA” on the reverses of Bust Dollars is usually described as either “large letters” or “small letters”; the vast majority being the former. The small letters pose many mysteries!

The small letters reverse had its debut in 1795 on one of the 13 known reverse dies of that year. Also, it was one of the two reverse dies married to the then new Draped Bust design. The mintage is apparently quite small. The same reverse die was used again in 1796, mated with (probably) two obverse dies. Again, the mintage was minimal; perhaps smaller than in 1795.



**Small Letters Reverse.** This particular reverse die was used in striking silver dollars dated 1795, 1796, 1797 and 1798. Was the small letter punch used in making this die intended for silver dollars, or for another smaller denomination? This specimen is the reverse of the rare 1797 B2,BB72 die marriage. Photo courtesy of the ANA.



**Large Letters Reverse.** Reverse illustrated is the reverse of a 1797 B1,BB73 silver dollar. Contrast the size and shape of the letters to the Small Letters Reverse die. Photo courtesy of the ANA.



That same reverse die is placed in service again in 1797 and 1798- presumably for very small mintages judging from their current scarcity. These five usages spanning four years are represented by the variety designations 1795 B14, BB51; 1796 B1, BB66; B2, BB63; 1797 B2, BB72; and 1798 B2, BB81.

Another small letters reverse die appears in a single usage in 1796 as variety B5, BB65.

Letters were applied to the die by letter punches. Were the punches used for the small letter reverses made for dollar coinage? Were they one set of many punch sets used on various denominations, or perhaps intended for a half dollar reverse? Why were the mintages so small? In particular, there is no evidence of serious die deterioration in 1795 coinage to account for its relatively limited usage. If the die was recognized as below standard then why was it kept? And, if it was kept as a spare, why for four years? And, what "emergency" caused this die to be taken from "mothballs" to strike a small number of coins each time?

## Daddy Dollars

By the mid 1800's the bust dollars of 1794-1803 were known as "daddy dollars" or "dollars of our daddy".

Recall that dollar coinage was suspended about 1804. The denomination was not struck again until 1836, and then in the distinctly different Seated Liberty design. The easily distinguishable Bust dollars, still in use, hailed from an earlier or "daddy" generation.

In this period between dollar coinages many early dollars were saved as souvenirs and such, judging from the many survivors in higher grades. One such reported use was for teething children. Holed at the top and strung with ribbon, the dollar became a teething aid. The writer encountered what was likely such a usage with a 1799 dollar hung by a cotton muslin ribbon (roughly 3/8" x 18") in a rural Pennsylvania estate auction some years ago.



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# **1795 Bowers-Borckardt 16 Flowing Hair Dollar, a.k.a. Bolender-20**

## **Another Specimen Turns Up**

**Mark Borckardt**

At Bowers and Merena, this variety of 1795 Flowing Hair dollar is quickly becoming one of our favorites. The obverse of BB-16 is from the same die as BB-17 (Bolender-18) and BB-18 (Bolender-7). Of these, BB-17 remains unique and was offered by us in April 1997 as part of the Eliasberg Collection. The other variety, BB-18, is much more common with several high grade examples known, including a choice Mint State specimen also sold by us with the Eliasberg Collection.

The reverse is from the same die as BB-15 (Bolender-8), another very rare variety with just five or six known. A characteristic of the reverse is a thin die scratch or polish line down from the border left of the first A in AMERICA. We are unable to find any die damage suggesting a reason for the reverse die to be taken out of service after only a small number of examples were coined.

This variety was discovered by Walter Breen when he catalogued an example for Lester Merkin in 1972. Appearing in Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 299, this variety was then catalogued as Bolender-21. In later revisions of the Bolender reference, the variety number was changed to B-20.





Breen wrote: "New muling of known dies. Obverse Bolender-7. Reverse Bolender-8, but finer than Bolender plate coin of that variety. Immediately identified by straight die scratch in field, like part of an extra A, left of first A in AMERICA, pointing to the nearest berry; recut C in AMERICA. Just about VF, many obv. adjustment marks. Rev. sharper than obv. and fully VF. The Bolender-8 die was formerly known only by two impressions of that variety; the present muling is superior to either of them and in addition represents a discovery linking the Bolender-8 dies with the remainder of the group (Bolender 16, 10, 17, 1, 2, 7, 19, 18, 12, 5 and 6). Identified by Walter Breen, originally obtained merely as a specimen of the date. Unpublished, to date unique."

This discovery coin was purchased from the Merkin auction by collector Frank M. Stirling. To the best of our knowledge, the coin has never been sold and remains in the Stirling Estate.

The second example identified was offered by us in our May 1998 auction, lot 2254. This coin has sharpness of VF-25, however, has been holed and has numerous tiny surface marks. This second example was discovered by a well-known Massachusetts numismatist and immediately consigned to our sale. Eventually, this example found its way to a well-known eastern collector, one of very few silver die varieties he needed.

Two years later, a third example has appeared. This coin was consigned to us by the heirs of a collector who will remain anonymous. The variety was previously not recorded and attributed by our auction director John Pack. This example has sharpness of VF-25 to 30, very similar to the second example in this regard. Surfaces are very pleasing, perhaps lightly cleaned, with very light graffiti in left and right obverse fields, along with a few minor rim bruises. The only information we have regarding pedigree is that the collector apparently purchased this in July 1966, based on a notation on the cardboard holder this coin was housed in when sent to us.

The third known coin, illustrated above, will be offered in our March 2000 Baltimore auction. With the Stirling coin off the market indefinitely, and the example we sold two years ago in a strong collection, this coin is presently the only one available to collectors.



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# The 1811 O107 Prime Bust Half

**Ralph D. Fox**

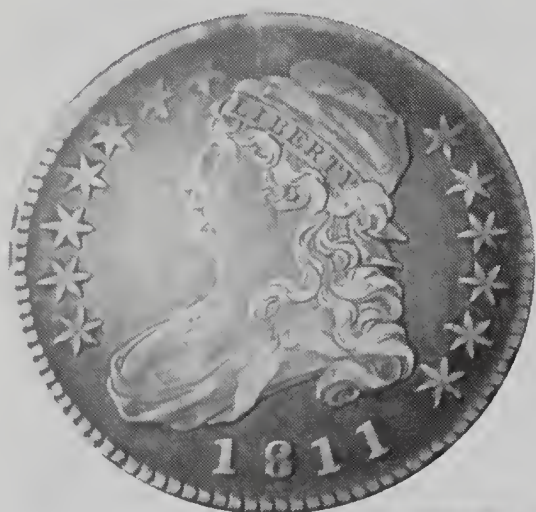
Among the first ten bust halves I purchased ( I now have some 250 bust half marriages ) is what I call my 1811 O107 prime bust half. The 1811 O107 dies were used earlier- obverse on 1811 O105 and the reverse on 1811 O106.

The distinguishing characteristics of the obverse for 1811 O107 from 1811 O105 is that the second 1 shows recutting at the upper serif and the 8 shows a slight recutting in the lower loop. The specimen pictured below doesn't have those recuttings.

The reverse of 1811 O107 shows a center dot on crossbar 4 and a die crack from the edge joins the two lower arrowheads and circles left across the 50C., the olive leaves and legend clear around to AM. The specimen pictured below, though well worn, has the center dot on crossbar 4 and the die crack.

This shows that the die marriage of 1811 O107 was used to make coins prior to the reworking of obverse 4. Hence, the 1811 O107 prime bust half.

Also pictured is an AU58 1811 O107 where the 1 and 8 are recut.



1811 O-107 Prime



AU-58 1811 O-107





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# **R4+ Capped Bust Half Dollars**

## **A Condition Census**

**Russell J. Logan**

Never did I realize how much confusion would evolve when I suggested that this census be based on the recent revised rarity ratings published in Volume 12 Issue 1 of the Journal. To publish this census in the traditional manner would have penalized the best of collections because they were lacking the recent R4's that were previous R3's. These collectors simply did not realize, or did not care, that these rarity changes took place. There was no time to resubmit the inquiry so I made the obvious decision: this census is a census of coins and not a census of collections. Trust that too many collectors will not be too disappointed and will be happy to participate next round. Your feedback would be appreciated.

These are exciting times for us die marriage collectors. Back in the 50's and 60's when there were very few of us who collected the silver Federal coins by die marriage, there were two ways to acquire a new die marriage for your collection. You either canvassed every coin shop and show and found them yourself, or in the process of looking for coins, you found another collector who was willing to trade. This was the rationale for the formation of the *Bust Half Nut Club* in the late 1960's and spawned the early collections of Stew Witham, Elton Dosier, Tom Bay and Floyd Farley. Next came the dealer specialist who brokered the Bust half dollar (Sheridan Downey), the Bust Dime and Half dime (Brian Greer) to the collector. They either found the coins themselves or accepted consignments from seasoned collectors. The major auction houses also began attributing the early silver coins in hopes of increasing revenue. Today, to qualify for the magical 100 die marriages for BHNC membership requires two ingredients: a phone call and a check book; thirty years ago, it would have taken a year and many tankfuls of gasoline to find 100 different die marriages.

Now the Internet is about ready to reform our collecting habits again. E-Bay is the first - I'm sure there will be more to follow - online auction house which encourages a benighted seller to meet the aficionado collector in his home at his convenience. A scan is all that is required for a seasoned collector to attribute a coin. For those of you who are not yet on the Net, this is like an ANA summer convention every weekend in your own home! It takes a bit of patience and either a decent printer or monitor, but attributing Bust halves on e-Bay is fun! Granted, the star to dentil relationships are a bit moot, but a seasoned Nut can attribute a darkly scanned 1830 Large Letters even with a hole. Only one word of advice from this writer: never assume that you are the only person who has found a R-7 Bust half, even if there are no bids and only five minutes to go. Bid your limit and hope.

There were over 2400 coins tallied for this census from 36 collections. Although this is less than the last census taken in January 1994, the overall grade average is considerably higher.

as the most complete collections do not necessarily have the highest grade coins. Most of the major collections that are still intact since the last census are represented here; only a very few prefer autonomy. The next census will be the Bust dollars, and **I would like to know your thoughts on the format of this census before I proceed.** Please submit your dollar census and comments to Brad Karoleff at PO Box 135 in Harrison, OH 45030.

## Capped Bust Half Dollar Census Rarity 4+

*Finest Grades Reported, 36 Collections Surveyed*

Nov-99	R#															PCS AVG	
1807	111	4	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	25	32	26
1808	110	5	55	55	50	50	45	45	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	32	28
1809	101	5	45	40	40	40	30	30	30	30	30	25	25	20	20	26	22
	104	5	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	30	30	30	25	33	26
	108	4	45	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	30	25	25	25	25	30	24
	110	4	62	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	30	25	25	25	20	33	24
	112	5	50	50	40	40	40	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	25	30	26
	113	5	45	45	40	40	40	30	30	30	25	25	25	25	20	24	24
	114	5	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	25	20	20	29	24
1811	102	4	55	50	50	45	45	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	30	30
	103	4	58	58	55	50	40	40	40	25	25	25	25	25	25	16	34
	107	4	58	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	28	32
	112	4	55	55	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	32	35
	113	5	58	50	50	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	30	25	27	28
1812	101	5	55	45	45	40	35	30	30	25	25	25	20	20	20	15	30
1813	102	4	60	55	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	29	34
	104	4	65	50	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	30	33
1814	106	4	63	55	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	34
1817	102	7	12													1	12
	104	6	55	55	40	40	35	25	4							7	36
	105	4	55	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	35	75	32
	108	4	55	55	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	28	36



**R4+ CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS – A CONDITION CENSUS**

<b>Nov-99</b>	<b>R#</b>																<b>PCS AVG</b>	
1818	110	4	55	50	45	45	45	40	40	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	30	32
	115	4	50	50	50	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	30	30	29
1819	103	4	55	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	20		14	36
	106	4	58	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	30	30	30	25	25		26	28
1820	104	4	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30		27	28
	107	5	60	55	50	45	45	45	40	35	30	30	30	25	25		28	28
1822	102	4	55	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	30		33	30
	103	5	60	55	50	50	45	40	40	35	35	35	35	30	30		29	28
	112	4	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30		24	31
1823	102	4	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	30		26	34
	109	6	30	30	30	25	25	25	20	20	20	18	18	15	15		21	19
	113	7	45	15													2	30
1824	102	5	45	45	40	40	30	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	20		27	20
	112	4	58	55	50	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	35		29	35
	114	5	60	55	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	30		30	30
1825	103	4	55	55	50	50	50	50	40	40	40	40	30	30	30		33	30
	104	4	55	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	30		27	29
	109	5	63	61	55	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	30		31	30
	117	4	58	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40		29	37
	118	8	12														1	12
1826	103	5	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	35	30		33	30
	114	4	65	60	55	53	50	48	45	45	40	40	40	40	40		36	36
	115	5	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	35		29	32
	119	4	61	60	50	48	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		28	37
1827	103	4	58	50	50	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	30		28	31
	108	4	58	58	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		28	37
	109	4	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40		25	39
	110	4	58	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		29	36
	111	4	55	55	50	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	35		30	35
	113	4	55	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40		27	38
	116	5	55	55	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	40		32	37
	122	5	55	50	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	25	25		29	27
	123	5	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	30	30		30	30
	124	5	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	35	35	30	30	30	30		23	33

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R4+ CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS – A CONDITION CENSUS

Nov-99	R#															PCS AVG	
	127	5	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	30	23	28
	129	4	58	55	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	31	35
	133	4	55	55	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	28	35
	134	4	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	29	33
	136	4	58	50	50	45	40	40	35	30	30	25	20	15	15	14	33
	137	6	60	40	30	30	30	25	25	25	10	10	8			11	27
	138	4	60	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	26	37
	139	4	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	30	38
	140	4	60	55	50	50	50	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	30	29	33
	144	5	50	40	40	35	30	30	30	30	25	25	25	25	20	24	24
	145	5	55	55	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	30	28	31
	147	4	58	58	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	30	36
	148	6	50	45	30	25	25	20	10							7	29
	149	7														0	0
1828	105	5	55	55	50	50	45	43	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	27	31
	106	4	60	55	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	29	35
	111	4	55	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	30	34
	123	5	55	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	25	25	21	31
1829	106	5	60	55	50	50	50	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	27	32
	109	4	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	30	30	30	25	24	27
	118	4	50	50	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	30	25	25	22	31
	120	7	12													1	12
1830	105	4	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	29	30
	112	4	55	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	31	33
	114	6	60	60	45	45	40	40	30	30	25	25	25	20	20	21	27
1831	113	4	50	48	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	30	30	28	33
	115	4	55	53	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	26	35
	117	4	60	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	25	35
	120	6	30	30	25	25	25	20	20	12	12					9	22
1832	109	5	55	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	29	33
	114	4	60	50	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	27	36
	117	5	60	55	53	50	50	48	45	45	45	40	30	30	30	31	33
	123	7	63													1	63
1833	111	4	50	50	50	40	40	40	40	40	40	30	30	30	30	25	32
	115	5	50	45	30	30	30	30	30	25	25	25	25	20	20	23	22
	116	7	65	45												2	55



R4+ CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS – A CONDITION CENSUS

Nov-99	R#															PCS AVG	
1834	110	4	63	62	60	55	50	50	50	50	48	48	45	45	45	30	42
	118	4	58	58	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	26	36
	122	7	64	45												2	55
1835	111	8	65													1	65
1836	107	4	50	50	45	40	40	30	30	25	20	20				10	35
	121	5	50	50	45	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	25	25	25	21	29



1827 "0150" Obverse 11 (0115) Reverse E (0116)  
1st Edition Overton = O-32, Beistle = B11M.



# BUST DOLLAR CENSUS IS NEXT!

Please Send Your Information:

Date • Variety • Grade

For All Specimens Owned To:

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# A “Curious Overstrike” Reappears

**John J. Haugh**

An enthusiast of America's first silver dollar coinage, popularly referred to as Early Dollars (ED's) 1794-1803, I have long been especially intrigued with a fascinating handful of die marriages. This list includes the die variety known as the 1796 Large Date, Small Letters. M.H. Bolender, in his breakthrough treatise, *THE UNITED STATES SILVER DOLLARS FROM 1794 TO 1803*, gave this particular die pairing the designation B-5 (the B for Bolender, the 5 for what he presumed to be the fifth die marriage of the year). Every known example of the B-5 has what Bolender referred to as a “die lump” (many numismatists now refer to it as an “internal cud”) on the reverse, just touching the upper right of I in AMERICA.

As more specimens were minted, the “lump” expanded, engulfing the top of the I and firmly uniting (touching) the adjacent C. Bolender referred to this as a sub-variety, the B-5a (he was unfamiliar or unimpressed with die state terminology). The 1796 B-5 is not a scarce coin, save in extremely high grades, as Early Dollars go. W. David Perkins, in his *Ratings Guide* (1998), gave it an R-3 rating. Jules Reiver, in his 1999 book, gives it an R-4 rating.

Q. David Bowers' treatise on silver dollars, published in 1993, dealt extensively with Early Dollars (as well as all other US issues of that denomination). With much help from Mark Borckardt, a new numbering system was devised for the EDs attempting to put all die pairings in order, regardless of year. Their system resulted in the B-5 becoming BB-65 (BB for Bowers/Borckardt). The B-5a became BB-65, DS V (DS for Die State), though we will hereafter refer to the latter as B-5a, a die state which Bowers/Borckardt referred to as “rare”. Specialists estimate there may be around 15-20 known examples of the B-5a.

For years, my interest in the 1796 B-5a was heightened by a quirky reference in Bolender's original edition (and repeated verbatim in the subsequent four editions Jules Reiver prepared) about a “curious overstrike of the rare B-5a variety. Bolender devoted the following paragraph to the coin:

“Another specimen of this variety is a curious overstrike. The reverse is struck over the obverse of this variety, the date and stars showing plainly on the reverse.”



When Bowers published his two volume tome about US silver dollars, he simply quoted Bolender verbatim (neither he nor Borckardt, despite immense and diligent research, had found any other reference to the coin, or spoken with anyone who had seen it), with the following introductory remark:

"Concerning a flip-strike specimen of Die State V", grade not stated, Bolender noted this in 1950: (and then repeating Bolender's paragraph).

Did the coin exist? If so, where was it? No Early Dollar specialist I asked could tell me anything. At the September, 1996 Long Beach show, an old time collector (now deceased) who knew Bolender well, advised that Bolender had not actually seen the coin (which was not in the sale of his collection). Bolender had relied on a detailed description from a sophisticated collector he knew and trusted. The information was received by Bolender sometime in the mid 1940s. This made some sense, as the words Bolender carefully choose suggested he had not actually seen the coin.



Enlargement of obverse. Note weakness at stars 2-4, opposite the internal cud ("die lump") on reverse, and enlarged dentils. Note no evidence of an overstrike, even around the perimeter.



Enlargement of reverse. Note that internal cud ("die lump") has joined I to C in AMERICA, which Bolender referred to as B-5a. Although the overstrike is quite apparent on close examination, looking at the coin without enlargement from an arm's length would not reveal the error. Thus, one would presume it passed through "quality control" (such as it was).

At the January, 1999 FUN show in Orlando, a dealer friend offered me a 1796 flipover double strike of the B-5a in a NGC EF 40 holder. We each had a copy of Bolender's book, and were enchanted to see the date and stars on the reverse (along with other obverse features on the reverse). After minimal haggling, I bought the piece for my personal collection where it now resides.

As it turned out, the coin was in the Bowers & Merena "Rarities" sale, which I missed, preceding FUN (January, 1999) as Lot 1171. The coin was described as follows:

"1796 BB-65, B-5 Large Date Small Letters, EF 40, NGC. Smoky rose toning on both sides, with deeper gray in recessed design areas. A few faint scattered marks are noted, including some light mint caused planchet adjustment marks, at 7 o'clock near the obverse rim. An incredible early mint error, a flip-over double strike. While no visible evidence of such can be found on the obverse, the reverse tells a totally different tale. At 9 o'clock the entire date is present, as is much of Liberty's bust detail, including her profile, which appears as a image in the clouds near the inner bottom of the wreath. Traces of several obverse stars also show, mainly in the area between AMERICA and UNITED, below the bow and wreath."

Amazingly, the cataloguer did not make the connection between the above description and Bolender's paragraph, which appeared verbatim in Bowers work. On the other hand, had he done so, I would not have been able to buy it at what I considered to be a reasonable price (even though the seller and I both had the same hunch).

The coin is a flip over double strike. It is believed 16 to 20 exist in the Early Dollar series (I have another). The typical flip over double strike (this would prove not to be) is created when the coin, after minting, somehow discharges, falls out (or is taken out) and run through the minting process a second time, essentially as a planchet. The original obverse being struck with the reverse die, and the original reverse being struck with the obverse die. Often, the second strike on each side nearly obliterates any evidence of the flip over double strike process, and the more worn the coin the more difficult it is to see evidence of the process.



**Digitally enhanced photograph of the date under reverse.**

But, this B-5a flip over double strike I now owned, in a relatively high grade, (EF 40, and arguably better) did not fit the typical flip over double strike scenario. Indeed, not at all. The coin is noticeably larger in diameter than an early dollar should be, being 40.2 mm, as opposed to 39.5. This was caused by the second striking pushing the margins out further, and making the dentils especially long. But, there is nothing on the present obverse (which should have been the prior reverse), despite the high grade, to indicate any evidence of an "overstrike" or double strike. Even around the borders and among the dentils, there is nothing to see, despite using 30X and 50X for examination. So, what explains that?



## A Uniface Flip Over Double Strike

After several advanced numismatists expressed puzzlement over the perfect obverse (stars 1 and 2 are weak, as they opposed the area of the internal cud), I shipped the coin to Russell J. Logan, a frequent contributor to this journal and recognized expert in both early Mint procedures and errors.



Digitally enhanced photograph of the reverse below ribbon, showing obverse "stars" (actually, the indentations between them).

After a detailed analysis, Russ concluded that while the coin was indeed a flip over double strike, the first strike had created an on-center (transparencies he made perfectly fit) obverse uniface coin. In explaining how that occurred, Russ' letter back to me observed: "The uniface strike was probably created by a pair of planchets being simultaneously fed into the screw press (with) two planchets on top of each other, one gets an obverse impression (yours) and

one gets a reverse impression-both, of course, being uniface (blank on the opposite side). The error was noticed by a mint employee, who set it aside for further processing. The coin may have expanded so much radially that it would not fit into the press feeding equipment, and was hand placed into the press with the collar removed for the second strike, which explains the extra diameter."

Russ was so excited, he called me before he had finished. Utilizing his legendary sense of humor, he advised that what I really had was a "half dollar". I asked what that meant. He said it would all become clear when I got the package back. What he was driving at was that a silver dollar, struck on only one side, is a "half dollar"!

Since Russ' "uniface" flip over double strike solution to the anomaly (a clear overstrike on one side, absolutely not a hint on the other, despite minimal wear), a number of other specialists in early mint operations and errors, as well as Early Dollars, have closely examined the piece. They concur it is indeed a uniface flip over double strike. Most agree with his theory as to how it happened. Some suggest alternative scenarios, each taking place after the two planchets, sitting on top of each other, received a strike on only one side:



Digital photograph of the reverse at 7:30 o'clock, showing increased outline of bust edge.

(a) The planchet with the obverse strike (and a blank reverse) somehow stuck to the die for a brief time, then fell, flipping over as it did so, and was struck again after entering the coinage chamber. The obverse was the "hammer" die. This could result in the reverse over-striking the original obverse, and the blank original reverse receiving an obverse strike. (b) The error was noted by a mint employee who carelessly put (or threw) the uniface strike into a "new" planchet bin rather than another location for remelting. Later (perhaps minutes, perhaps days) the uniface planchet was fed into the dies with the blank side pointed up toward the obverse "hammer" die, inadvertently or not. After being ejected, a cursory look, especially from a few feet away, at the coin convinced the mint employee the problem (if indeed he even saw it) had been eliminated.

Regardless of which of the three scenarios actually took place (or the possibility of some other one) the informed consensus is that it is a uniface flip over double strike, however it came to be created. It is the only known such example in the Early Dollar series, and has perhaps the most dramatic flipover double strike details of any reverse in the series.

## **Is It The Bolender Coin?**

Is the B-5a uniface flipover double strike originally referred to by Bolender the coin described above (and shown in accompanying photographs)? Logic overwhelmingly suggests it is. Given the (a) rarity of the B-5a, (b) the fact the coin referred to by Bolender had to have been a relatively high grade specimen (as is this) to retain the details he referred to, (c) that the entire date appears on the reverse (as described by Bolender), (d) the complete lack of any evidence of an overstrike on the obverse. Bolender only referred to the reverse, strongly suggesting the obverse appeared normal or, to use one of his favorite terms, "perfect"), and (e) the above specimen has obverse stars on the reverse (to be more precise, they are the indentations between stars) also noted by Bolender, it would seem virtually certain it is the same coin.

I believe it is. Many other Early Dollar enthusiasts agree. The odds of there being two rare die states of the same die pairing (itself somewhat scarce in XF or better) with identical signs of an overstruck reverse (it seems Bolender's term of "overstruck" is more precise than "double struck") are essentially nil. Is it absolutely certain? Few things in numismatics are.



## Where Had The Coin Been?

## Where Is The Mate?

The "curious overstrike" had not surfaced from the 1940's (when Bolender apparently heard of it) until January of 1999 (as far as I knew), when it was in the Bowers & Merena "Rarities" sale in Orlando. My inquiries suggest it surfaced in South Carolina in 1998 as part of a collection highlighting 18th century US coins. The collector had died, and his son sold the collection in that area (on a "no name" basis) to a local dealer. That dealer sold the coin at a Georgia show in the summer of 1998, after which it was submitted to NGC for grading, and was subsequently consigned to Bowers & Merena for auction. Despite the glowing description set forth bidding did not reach the consignor's reserve, and it hit the floor of the FUN show, in the hands of my dealer friend.

My fascination with Bolender's quirky reference to a "curious overstrike" of a B-5a is over, as I'm satisfied it now resides in my collection. What tales this coin could tell about its use and travels since its "defective" birth three years before George Washington's demise. But, the story is not over."

It is quite possible, if not probable, that another B-5a (the "mate" to this coin) left the Mint at the same time, and should be out there somewhere with a "perfect" (for that die state) reverse, and an obverse showing (probably around the outer perimeter and in the dentils) that it had been struck over a reverse. We should all look carefully at all B-5a obverses. It would be a truly exciting find, and I could dearly love to have them both in my collection. Call collect if you find it!

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# Slabbing Circa 1840

**Russell J. Logan**

If the word disease did not have so many bad connotations, one might aptly describe the process of collecting as such. After all, it's hereditary, it does get worse over time, and there is no cure. Our spouses frequently revolt, unless, of course, they also collect. But the collection must be something entirely different, something of which we have modest knowledge, but something that can be shared when a significant piece (peace) is found.

My wife, who did not inherit her collecting habits, but rather acquired them through osmosis, has focused, among other things, on early American flint glass whale oil lamps for her collecting addiction. Unlike coins, the whale oil lamps can be attractively and informatively displayed by museums and historical societies. There are many first class museums that have focused on Early American Glass, and have produced displays and study exhibits that are both educational and attractive. Like numismatics, the true scholars have gone beyond the object and recaptured the people and the history that created the object in question. Glass in the 1830's in America was a luxury and was fabricated by craftsmen who knew their trade and often did things that were unimaginable even to their contemporary peers.

Both Toledo and Corning have first class museums that both my wife and I have often visited in hopes of expanding our knowledge of both the object and the history of the objects' origin. As with many other antique American decorative art objects, the twentieth century scholar has identified the most prolific and skilled craftsmen, and the tools they used. Several outstanding American glassmakers emerged during the first half of the nineteenth century. One of the most notable of these was Thomas Cains, an immigrant glassmaker who settled in Boston in 1812. After the War of 1815, he directed the operations of his Phoenix Glass Works until 1852, when he retired and turned the business over to his son, William. Several key examples of Thomas' work are presently in the possession of his great-great-grandson and are considered the "touchstones" of his labor. One of these important examples contains an 1813 Irish tenpence in a blown hollow knop in the stem and another tenpence in the knop of the cover. Both coins are "free" within the knop, and have never had a breath of fresh air in 170 years.

In my research, I discovered that the act of encapsulating a coin within a glass knop was common practice among European glassmakers, but very few examples have been documented by American craftsmen. So why would anyone want to entomb a silver coin inside a blown knop of a sugar bowl? Thomas Cains was certainly not trying to preserve a coin for us in the 21st century; but, I think, he was merely demonstrating his skills as a glass blower. This was his way of advertising he was the best glass blower in Massachusetts! And indeed he was; just ask your favorite glass blower at Greenfield Village if he could deposit a free coin within a half dollar sized closed knop that is 1/8 inch in wall thickness!



So why am I writing about foreign coins entombed inside blown knops of 19th century American glass? Because I discovered that Thomas Cains also entombed American coins: Bust dimes and Bust half dimes! This discovery cast a totally new dimension on the subject: maybe David Hall's patents for slabbing coins are invalid because of this documented prior art? Could anyone dispute that these coins had original toning? Was this sampling of coins taken from circulation typical of the small change circulating in Massachusetts during the 1830's? Did anyone besides Thomas Cains attempt this feat?

My first order of inquiry was to document as many American examples of these 19th century entombed coins as possible, and then to study them. Of the dozen examples I found, three of the objects had two coins each, i.e. one coin in the base knop and another in the lid knop. Of the sixteen coins, five were American (two Bust dimes and two Bust Half dimes and an "1821 U.S. silver half dime"). The remaining eleven were of Irish, English, Spanish or Columbian origin. All but two of these examples are attributed to Thomas Cains. There are obviously additional examples, but here are the dozen that I've found, as fresh as the day they left the glasshouse:

#### Covered Sugar Bowl

South Boston Flint Glass Works circa 1813

Thomas Cains

1816 George III One Shilling

Two pieces - one in lid other in base

Wilson fig 163, *New England Glass & Glassmaking*

Descendants of Thomas Cains

#### Covered Sugar Bowl

South Boston Flint Glass Works 1813

Thomas Cains

Irish tenpence bank tokens

Two pieces - one in lid other in base

Wilson fig 164

Descendants of Thomas Cains

#### Creamer

Phoenix Glass Works circa 1830

Thomas Cains

George III Silver Coin

Hambridge Collection

Collectors Sales & Service 2/19/2000:215

Footed Mug

Phoenix Glass Works circa 1825  
Thomas Cains  
1821 Columbian quarter  
Wilson fig 163  
Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

Covered Loving Cup

Phoenix Glass Works circa 1821-30  
Thomas Cains  
1811 George III Token one shilling six pence  
1821 U.S. silver half dime {sic}  
Two pieces - one in lid other in base  
Wilson fig 165  
Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

Loving Cup

New England Glass Company  
1810 George III coin  
Antiques Magazine March 1961; Perrot

Footed Pitcher

Phoenix Glass Works circa 1840  
Thomas Cains  
1834 U.S. silver dime  
The Richards Collection  
Collector's Sales and Service 10/19/93:12

Footed Pitcher

Phoenix Glass Works circa 1840  
Thomas Cains  
1838 English two pence  
The Richards Collection  
Collector's Sales and Service 2/22/94:319

Loving Cup

South Boston Flint Glass Works  
or at the  
Thomas Cains Phoenix Glass Works  
George III coin dated 1816  
Wilson fig 167  
Delgado Art Museum, New Orleans



## Covered Sugar Bowl

Thomas Cains Phoenix Glass Works

circa 1830

1827 U.S. silver dime

Wilson fig 168

Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

## Whale Oil Lamp

Thomas Cains Phoenix Glass Works

circa 1813-1830

Spanish silver coin dated 1782

Spillman fig 22

Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

## Covered Aquamarine Sugar Bowl

New York State

1829 U.S. silver half dime

1835 U.S. silver half dime

Antiques Magazine June 1956; McKearin

Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

I have been fortunate enough to have studied the Thomas Cains footed pitcher containing the 1834 JR-6 Bust dime (see Figure I) in detail. The coin is a commercial uncirculated example that, although “free” inside the knop, has not had many surface abrasions during its captivity because the inside diameter of the spherical surface of the knop supports just the rim of the coin, thus sparing any of the devices from abrasion. If there were any wire rims on this coin, they are now long gone. The coins (see Figure II) light grayish color reflects the stable non-oxidizing, non-sulfur atmosphere within the knop. The coins luster is still evident in the fields beneath the toning. Many of the other examples inside knops I’ve seen confirm this same pattern. Although I am one of those skeptics who claim that 99.44% of all the early high grade coins have been tampered with sometime, there is no question in my mind that all the surfaces of this dime are original throughout. The color and texture of this coin is very much different than the best of the claimed “original” coins.

Modern man has made many time capsules for his sons and grandsons. Some have been successful, and some not. For instance, a three gule half dime was recovered from the cornerstone of the Second Mint when it was demolished in 1901. It might as well have been buried in clay. But unbeknownst to Thomas Cains when he made this glass pitcher, his extraordinary skills as a glassmaker probably resulted in the most successful time capsule in numismatic history.



**Figure I - Thomas Cains blown pitcher with free blown 1834 Capped Bust dime in knop. Circa 1840.**



**Figure II & Figure III - Close up of 1834 JR-6 dime in knop. This coin has not seen a breath of fresh air in over 150+ years. It is as original as historically possible.**





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# **Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837, A Review**

**Charles D. Horning**

The long anticipated text: Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837 by Russ Logan and John McCloskey made its way into collector hands at the 1999 ANA in Chicago.

The winning formula created for the Early United States Dimes in 1984 was duplicated for their baby sisters. True to an engineer's philosophy of never being satisfied, the authors new work has been favorably tweaked in a number of areas.

The format of the half dime book essentially mirrors that of the dime book that preceded it. However, the state descriptions are now much more detailed. Emission order data is now, though more complex, more clearly delineated.

From a collector's viewpoint, the most significant improvement of this text over its Bust Dime predecessor is the vast improvement in the quality of the photographs. Tom Mulvaney, unquestionably our finest numismatic photographer, has put his considerable skills to their highest use. The photos are crisp, perfectly contrasted and are of diagnostic quality.

Sectional photos illustrating differences between the various die marriages within a date series are so descriptive, as to virtually take the fun out of variety collecting. One would be hard pressed to misattribute a variety.

The book begins with a dedication page to Mark Smith, noted collector and researcher. Mark not only contributed his considerable collection but also offered research on edge dies and his knowledge of die states. The book would not have been complete without this touching tribute.

What follows next is a detailed history of Bust Half Dime collecting. Previous attempts by Neil, Valentine and Reiver to identify die varieties and Breen to establish an emission sequence are enumerated.

As an example of the exacting detail with which half dimes are dealt, the authors, where ever possible, list the discoverer of new die marriages subsequent to Valentine.

Whereas Valentine identified 69 die marriages in the Capped Bust Series, this new text lists 29 obverse dies, 36 reverse dies - 91 marriages plus an additional 31 remarriages for a total of 122 varieties! D.W. may you rest in peace.

Another unique aspect of the half dime book is the section authored by David Davis on the 1802 Half Dime. His research is exhaustive, covering the romantic history of the 1802 from Newlin to the present day.

In addition, Davis lists every known auction appearance (167) for the 1802 with the description offered for the lot by the cataloguer. The winning bid and purchaser are also listed when known.

The section of the text dealing with mint methodology follows the 1802 study. Whereas the dime book emphasized a history of the Mint, the half dime text deals with the metallurgical history and its relationship to the production quality of the half dimes.

A final section of the explanation of minting practices covers the fabrication of dies and their deterioration. Of course, the changes that occurred to the dies during the minting process is the primary focus of the sub-specialists in the Bust coin series. The authors cover, in some detail, die degradation and the Mint's efforts to revive them.

In addition to variety identification, this text, according to the authors "is focused on the fundamental elements of *die wear* for the purpose of establishing an emission order."

The analysis of the capped Bust Series is so detailed that the authors even explain the 11 different collar dies used, including edge reed counts (Mark Smith's research). This exhaustive effort combined with obverse-reverse die deterioration confirms emission sequence for all the known varieties.

Essentially, this emission sequence determined not only the variety identification order but also allowed the authors to create a logical order in which to list the marriages and remarriages in their text.

One of the primary focuses of Federal Half Dimes is its emphasis on die remarriages in the Capped Bust Series. 31 remarriages are identified. A detailed sequencing chart appears for each reverse die that has a remarriage, including all varieties for its use. Accompanying the chart, a verbal description is included to clarify the die deterioration.

These remarriages are considered so important by the authors, that they occupy a separate page in the text and are included as an additional marriage to collect. Each remarriage within a die use is identified and numbered in sequence of use.(i.e.: 1829 LM 6.1, 6.2, 6.3).

No other reference text to date has incorporated die remarriages in its attribution guide. This feature alone creates a new standard for subsequent efforts in other series.



As with the previous effort on dimes (Early United States Dimes by Davis, Logan, Lovejoy, McCloskey and Subjack), detailed attribution is provided for each variety. The basic format is continued with several valuable enhancements. These include far better photographs (Tom Mulvaney) reed counts, diameter measurements and detailed die state information. Valentine cross referencing, where applicable, also appears. Provenance of the variety's discovery is added for completeness.

No review would be complete without some notation of omissions by the authors, few and minor though they may be. The most important would be the addition of a glossary for the novice collector. Most terms are defined once in the first 79 pages, but attempting to track them down while attributing a variety may prove to be a daunting task.

In addition, for those collectors of terminal die states, a listing of known cuds (as appears in the dime text) would be extremely helpful.

A limited number of the books are still available from JRCS for \$75 postpaid. Please see ordering information in the Editor's Comments section of this journal.

Overall, Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837 is an extraordinary text. Scholarly researched and meticulously presented, it now establishes the standard by which subsequent attribution guides will be judged. Though Russ and John have operated in relative obscurity, with their efforts often going unrewarded in the numismatic community; those of us that love Federal coinage, deeply appreciate the remarkable effort that they have undertaken on our behalf.



# **ORDERING INFORMATION**

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# **Jules Reiver Literary Award**

## **Qualifying Articles For This Years Voting**

These are the articles that qualify for your consideration for the best article for volume 12 of **The John Reich Journal**. Please vote for no more than three of the following selections by writing the titles and authors name on your ballot. Please mail your selections to JRCS PO Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030. Please act immediately, I will accept ballots through March 2000. The winning article will be announced in a future journal and the lucky author will be awarded a plaque at this years ANA convention in Philadelphia. Please remember that you can vote for any three articles from the following list.

### **Volume 12, Issue 1**

Rarity Ratings for Capped Bust Half Dollars: History and Update by Stephen J. Herrman and Glenn R. Peterson, MD  
Capped Bust Halves-A "Bucket" Analysis by Ken Cable  
The Third Variety of 1801 Eagle by Anthony J. Taraszka  
Announcing a New Die Marriage Capped Bust Half Dime by Dr. Glenn Peterson  
Pre-Turban Half Dollar Census by Russell J. Logan  
Die State Study for the Very Rare 1798 B-16 Dollar by W. David Perkins, NLG  
The 1836 O116A Lapped Die Half by Harvey Bastacky  
Double Struck Capped Bust Halves by Ken Hill  
A Novel 1796 (1797?) Eagle by Anthony J. Taraszka

### **Volume 12, Issue 2**

Capped Bust Half Dollar Patterns and Related Issues by Russell J. Logan  
The Bearded Goddess (O111-A and B Bust Half Dollars) by Jeffrey Oertel  
Diameters and Edge Reed Counts of Early Eagles by Anthony Taraszka  
1799 B-12 Silver Dollar-"Rim Bump" or "Rim Break"? by W. David Perkins, NLG  
M. H. Bolender-"Wanted" by W. David Perkins, NLG  
Another 1828 Remarriage by Van Harvey

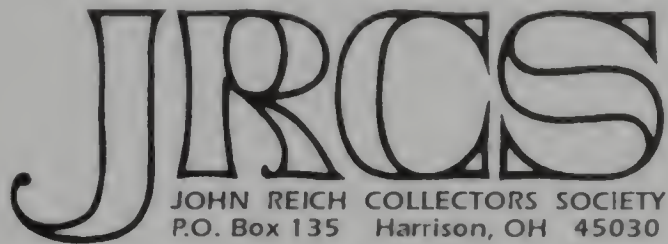
### **Volume 12, Issue 3**

1799 "Reverse of 1798" Silver Dollar by W. David Perkins, NLG  
Dollar Notes by Robert Stark  
1795 Bowers-Borckardt 16 Flowing Hair Dollar, a.k.a. Bolender-20 by Mark Borckardt  
The 1811 O107 Prime Bust Half by Ralph D. Fox  
R4+ Capped Bust Half Dollars-A Condition Census by Russell J. Logan  
A "Curious Overstrike" Reappears by John J. Haugh  
Slabbing Circa 1840 by Russell J. Logan  
Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837, A Review by Charles D. Horning



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